

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

DEBAD et al.

Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned

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FOR: METHODS, COMPOSITIONS AND KITS FOR BIOMARKER EXTRACTION

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

December 17, 2003

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

MS Patent Application

Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination of this application, entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks are respectfully requested.

The **claims** are presented on pages 2-7.

Claims 37-55 and 60-131 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Remarks begin on page 8.